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MENAI BRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

for the year

1951

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

G.P. Wallace, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

including the Annual Report of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

R.J. Pritchard, M.S.I.A.

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MENAI BRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1951.

To the Chairman and Members of
Menai Bridge Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to present my Annual Report for the year 1951.

The first part of the report deals with the General and Vital Statistics of the District. As is customary, I have calculated and set out the various "rates" based on the Registrar General's returns. As I mentioned in last year's report, these rates should be interpreted with reserve as they are based on a relatively small population. The rates for England & Wales are usually quoted as a comparison standard and I have also included, as a matter of interest, some of the rates for Wales & Monmouthshire, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. These rates are provisional figures based on the quarterly returns.

The part of the report dealing with the sanitary circumstances of the District has been mainly compiled by your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. R.J. Pritchard.

Encouraging progress with the building of council houses was made during the year. In April, 1951, the building of a new housing estate was begun. This comprises 24 three-bedroom houses, 2 four-bedroom houses and 10 flats. Included in the estate are also a butcher's shop and a general stores. It is expected that the whole estate will be completed by January 1953.

Measles and Whooping Cough formed the bulk of the notifiable diseases which occurred during the year. Most of the cases of Measles were notified during the spring and most of the Whooping Cough cases in the late summer. These diseases were generally prevalent in Anglesey at these times. One whooping cough death occurred during September. The victim was a two months old child.

Towards the end of December 1950 an unusually severe epidemic of influenza spread into Anglesey from the mainland. The original focus of this epidemic seems to have been in Scandinavia. It first appeared in the British Isles in Aberdeen, the Shetlands, Tyneside and East Anglia. This was about the middle of December 1950. Shortly afterwards a more vicious form of the disease appeared in Merseyside and from there the epidemic quickly spread to North Wales. By this time the original epidemic focus had extended to most parts of the British Isles. Influenza is not a notifiable disease and so exact figures are not available but it will be remembered that a big proportion of the people of Menai Bridge were affected by the disease.

The epidemic reached its peak towards the end of January, 1951. During this period one elderly lady died and four cases of influenzal pneumonia were notified. During February the epidemic gradually subsided and by the end of the month very few cases were occurring.

Only one case of tuberculosis was notified during the year. There were no tuberculosis deaths.

I should like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the members of the Council for your stimulating interest in public health matters. I should also like to express my thanks to my fellow officers for their helpful and ready co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G.P. Wallace.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	825
Population (Registrar General's estimate, mid 1951)	1,954
Number of inhabited Houses...	450
Number of Council Houses	130
Rateable Value	£10,697
Sum produced by a penny rate.	£41.3.9

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	18	13	31
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	18	13	31

The Birth Rate per 1,000 estimate population was 15.9. Rates for previous years were - 1948, 15.2; 1949, 14.5; 1950, 16.9.

The age and sex composition of a district affects the death and birth rates and to allow for this the Registrar General has issued figures for each local authority area known as comparability factors. When the rates are adjusted by applying these factors they can be more equitably compared with the national figures and with rates for other areas which have been adjusted by their own comparability factor.

The Adjusted Birth Rate was 16.1. Birth Rate for Wales & Monmouthshire, 15.9; England and Wales, 15.5; Scotland, 17.7; Northern Ireland, 20.7.

Stillbirths.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	1	0	1
Illegitimate	0	1	1
	1	1	2

The Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births was 60.6. Rates for previous years were 1948, 66.7; 1949, 69.0; 1950, 30.3. The Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 population was 1.02; Wales & Monmouthshire, 0.43; England and Wales, 0.36. (Irish and Scottish figures not available.)

Deaths.	Male.	Female.	Total.
	23	13	36

The Death Rate per 1,000 population was 18.4 compared with 15.8 in 1948, 16.7 in 1949 and 21.7 in 1950.

The Adjusted Death Rate was 14.4. Death Rate for Wales & Monmouthshire, 13.8; England and Wales, 12.5; Scotland, 12.9; Northern Ireland, 12.8.

Deaths of Infant under One Year of age.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	1	2	3

The Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births was 96.8. Rates for previous years were: 1948, 0.0; 1949, 47.0; 1950, 0.0. Rate for Wales & Monmouthshire in 1951, 35.5; England and Wales, 29.6; Scotland, 37.0; Northern Ireland, 41.0.

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	0	2	2
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	0	2	2

The Neo-natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births was 64.1. Rate for England and Wales, 18.8; Scotland, 22.0; Northern Ireland, 25.0. (Figure for Wales & Monmouthshire not available.)

Maternal Deaths. Nil.

Maternal Death Rate for England and Wales, 0.8.

TABLE SHOWING CAUSES OF DEATH (ALL AGES).

The following table shows the causes of death in the District. These figures have been supplied by the Registrar General and are in accordance with the new International Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

Causes of Death	M.	F.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory...	0	0
2. Tuberculosis, other	0	0
3. Syphilitic disease	0	0
4. Diphtheria	0	0
5. Whooping Cough	1	0
6. Meningococcal infections	0	0
7. Acute poliomyelitis	0	0
8. Measles	0	0
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	0	0
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	1	0
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	1	0
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast..	0	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus..	0	0
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms. ...	1	0
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0
16. Diabetes	0	0
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system... ...	3	3
18. Coronary disease, angina	4	0
19. Hypertension with heart disease	0	1
20. Other heart disease	2	5
21. Other circulatory disease...	0	0
22. Influenza	0	1
23. Pneumonia	1	0
24. Bronchitis	2	0
25. Other diseases of respiratory system. ...	0	0
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	0
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea... ...	0	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	0	0
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0
30. Pregna ncy, childbirth, abortion	0	0
31. Congenital malformations	0	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	5	0
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	0
34. All other accidents	0	0
35. Suicide	0	0
36. Homicide and operations of war.	0	0
ALL CAUSES	23	13

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.

This is obtained from surface springs between Four Crosses and Menai Bridge. The water passes to a covered service reservoir of 180 thousand gallons capacity and to an uncovered storage reservoir of 3¼ million gallons capacity. Treatment is by slow sand filtration and chlorination. Consumption is in excess of the yield of the springs and on occasion a supplementary supply has to be used. This is obtained from Bangor Corporation through a 3-inch pipe over the Suspension Bridge.

Water Supply (continued).

At the end of the year the work for connection of the town to the County Council water supply was far advanced and at the time of writing (in Oct. 1952) the town is supplied from the County Council's reservoir.

A few houses in the town receive their supplies from shallow wells. Four bacteriological samples were taken from these during the year; 3 were reported as "Highly Satisfactory" and one as "Satisfactory".

Two samples of the treated reservoir water were reported as "Highly Satisfactory".

Drainage and Sewage Disposal.

Almost all the town is sewered and the sewage is discharged into the Menai Straits below the low water mark of ordinary tides.

A 200 yards extension of an existing sewer was constructed to serve a new housing estate. Existing sewers from Mount Street to Well Street were renewed (extent, approximately 250 yards).

Refuse Disposal.

Disposal takes place on the Council's refuse tip on Castellior Farm. Old quarry depressionsin the field are being levelled by the tipping.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

Number of complaints received and investigated		116
Total number of visits of all kinds paid by Inspector during the year.		278
Statutory Notices:	Served	2
	Compiled with: (a) By Owners	2
	(b) By Local Authorities in default.	Nil
Informal Notices:	Served	29
	Compiled with	39
Legal proceedings taken		Nil

Summary of Inspections and visits by Sanitary Inspector during the year.

Housing	262
Nuisances etc. (not included under Housing) ...	92
Swimming Pools	Nil
Knackers' Yards	15
Offensive Trades	Nil

Factory Trades	12
Shop Acts	4
Petroleum Act	6
Cowsheds	2
Dairies	10
Ice-Cream Premises...	20
Meat Inspections at Slaughterhouses	Nil
Bakehouses	6
Food Shops	7
Food Stalls and Vehicles	6
Cafés, restaurants, canteens, hotel kitchens, etc.	12
Food factories	Nil
Other food preparing places...	2
Infectious Disease Visits	12
Rats & Mice Destruction Act...	24
Miscellaneous	2

RATS & MICE DESTRUCTION.

All sewers are treated every three months and all complaints regarding rodents are investigated and, if necessary, poison baits are laid.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

(1).	(a). Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	131
	(b). Number of inspections made for the purpose	262
(2).	(a). Number of dwelling-houses included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.	Nil
	(b). Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
(3).	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	6

(4). Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head)found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. 46

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. 28

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a). Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1). Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. Nil

(2). Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:

(a). By owners. Nil

(b). By Local Authority in default of owners. Nil

(b). Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

(1). Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 2

(2). Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices. Nil

(a). By owners Nil

(b). By Local Authority in default of owners. Nil

(c). Proceeding under Section 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1). Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. Nil

(2). Number of dwelling houses demolished Nil.

(3). Number of houses awaiting demolition. Nil

(4). Number of houses closed (undertakings accepted for use other than for human habitation). Nil

(d). Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1). Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. Nil

3. (d). (2). Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part 111, Section 26.

Number of houses in respect of which Clearance orders were made. Nil

Summary of Housing Defects and Nuisances Remedied during the year.

Keeping of animals		Nil
Offensive accumulations..		6
Sanitary accommodation.	insufficient	18
	defective	Nil
Drainage.	reconstruction	21
	repaired	Nil
	cleansed	32
Cesspools.	abolished	3
	repaired	Nil
Conversions to w.c.'s		Nil
Refuse receptacles		60
Food Stores		Nil
Water Supplies..		3
Walls and ceilings		6
Floors		6
Windows and ventilation..		7
Baths, lavatory basins and sinks..		2
Staircases		2
Coppers (defective)		Nil
Dampness		12
Roofs and rainwater pipes		12
Yard paving		12
Chimneys and fireplaces..		Nil
Miscellaneous...		62

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

Number of milk distributors and dairy premises (other than dairy farms). 6

Ice Cream.

Number of premises registered

(a) For the manufacture of ice cream 1

(b) For the sale of ice cream 10

Results of samples taken:

Grade 1	5
Grade 11	5
Grade 111	1
Grade 1V	1

Food Premises.

	No. in District.	No. of visits.	No. of faults & defects found.	No. of faults & defects remedied.
Cafés, restaurants and canteens.	6	12	2	2
Bakehouses.	4	-	-	-
Premises registered for the manufacture of preserved food (section 14 Food & Drugs Act).	Nil	-	-	-
Other Food Shops	15	6	-	-
Food Stalls and Vehicles.	Nil	-	-	-
Food Factories.	Nil	-	-	-

Unsound Food.

Food condemned during the year as unfit for human consumption:-

	Tons.	Cwt.	Qrs.
Butchers' meat.	-	-	-
Other food (including tinned food).	1	12	3

Knackers Yards.

One knackers yard is in operation in the District. It is fortunate that it is situated in the rural outskirts of the town. Otherwise it would be a source of intolerable nuisance as the premises are not of satisfactory construction. As it is, frequent supervision has had to be exercised in an endeavour to control the nuisance from rats, flies and odours.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health carried out by the Sanitary Inspector.

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	7	4	-	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	2	4	-	-
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	9	8	-	-

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948 (continued).

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied	Referred. To H.M. Inspector	Referred. By H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences.					
(a). Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b). Unsuitable or defective	3	3	-	-	-
(c). Not separate for sexes.	1	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	4	4	-	-	-

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis).

Table showing cases notified during the year, classified in age groups.

Disease	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15 & over	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	5	14	12	15	1	3	1
Measles	2	12	25	30	2	3	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	-	4	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	1	-	2	-

Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases.

The severe influenza epidemic which occurred during January and February has been referred to in some detail in my prefatory letter.

One influenza death occurred in January. Three out of the five cases of pneumonia listed in the preceding infectious diseases table were of the influenzal type.

Tuberculosis.

One case of tuberculosis was notified.

Age	Sex	Respiratory or Non-Respiratory.
54	M	Respiratory

No tuberculosis deaths occurred during the year.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

These services are provided by the County Council and by General Medical Practitioners in the District. The following figures are quoted by courtesy of the County Medical Officer.

Diphtheria Immunisation in relation to child population.

0 - 4 yrs.			5 - 15 yrs.			TOTAL.		
Population.	No. Immunised.	%	Population.	No. Immunised.	%	Population.	No. Immunised.	%
143	99	69.2	231	240	103.9	374	339	90.6

Vaccination against Smallpox.

Twenty-nine children were vaccinated during the year. Twenty-one of these were primary vaccinations and eight were re-vaccinations.

Vaccination against tuberculosis.

B.C.G. Vaccination is carried out by the Chest Physician in collaboration with the County Medical Officer and his staff. The scheme provides for the vaccination of new-born infants born into tuberculous households and of tuberculin-negative contacts of known cases. During 1951 three such vaccinations were carried out in the District.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No action was taken in respect of any individual under Section 47 of this Act during the year.